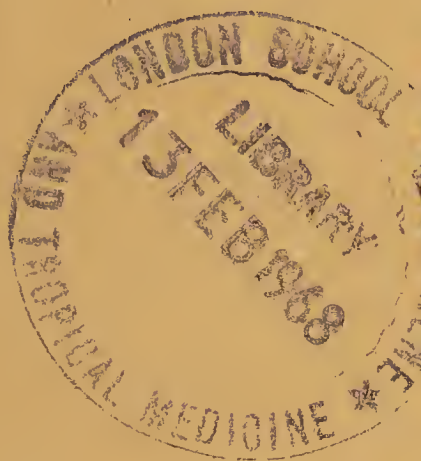


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ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1957

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor Miss E. M. LEGGATT.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor R. J. J. Fox.

Together with all other members of the Council excepting those not desirous of serving on the Committee.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Staff

Medical Officer of Health: W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
(also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Officer,
South East Essex, Essex County Council).

Chief Public Health Inspector: H. JEPSON, M.A.P.H.I.
(also Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, Petroleum Inspector, etc.)

Assistant Public Health Inspector: F. J. ORRIGAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk and Typist: Mrs. Z. SARGENT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ROCHFORD.

November, 1958.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford Rural
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957. As in the past few years, the population of the District has continued to grow. There was no undue incidence of disease, and the death rate continued to be low.

I am grateful to the Members and Officers of the Council for their help and support throughout the year, and once again I am indebted to Mr. H. Jepson, Chief Public Health Inspector, for help in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	36,080
Registrar General's estimate of Resident population at mid-year, 1957	23,850
Number of Habitable Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1957	8,300
	£ s. d.
*Rateable Value at 31st March, 1957	234,358 0 0
*Product of a Penny Rate for year ended 31st March, 1957	928 17 5

*These figures are based on the property valuations which became operative under the Rating and Valuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1956, and now amended by the Rating and Valuation Act 1957.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The total of 364 births to residents of the District during 1957 was comprised as follows:—

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total	190	174
Legitimate	185	169
Illegitimate	5	5

Illegitimate births were two more than in the previous year.

There were seven still births, four males and three females, all legitimate.

The birth rate of 15.3 per thousand is, by a slight margin, the highest recorded for the District since 1949. The total number of children born, 364, has been exceeded only once previously, in 1947. The birth rate locally is still somewhat lower than that for the country as a whole (16.1 per thousand), but as the population of the District continues to increase by the movement into it of the predominantly younger adult groups it seems likely that the local birth rate will soon equal, if not surpass the level of the national birth rate.

The local still birth rate was 18.8 per thousand live and still births, while that for England and Wales was 22.5.

DEATHS

The various ages at which the 294 deaths of residents of the District occurred during the year were as follows:—

<i>Age at Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	2	2	4
1 and under 5	1	1	2
5 and under 15	—	—	—
15 and under 25	3	—	3
25 and under 45	5	5	10
45 and under 65	23	29	52
65 and under 75	45	38	83
75 and upwards	65	75	140
Totals	144	150	294

Causes of Death

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	8	3	11
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	17	13	30
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	19	29	48
Coronary Disease, Angina	29	26	55
Hypertension with heart disease	6	10	16
Other heart disease	12	25	37
Other circulatory disease	5	8	13
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	8	4	12
Bronchitis	8	2	10
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	3	6
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	—	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	12	19
Motor Vehicle accidents	1	2	3
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	3	—	3
Totals	144	150	294

The death rate was 12.3 per thousand. The Registrar General is of the opinion that there is still a higher than average proportion of the elderly in the population of the District, and has supplied a factor to be applied to this death rate in order to compare it with the national rate. Using this factor, the local rate becomes 10.3 whereas the national death rate for 1957 was 11.5 per thousand population.

For infants under one year of age the death rate for the District was 10.9 per thousand, whereas that for England and Wales was 23.1.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS—see page one.

COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

The undermentioned standing committees of the Council deal directly or indirectly with health matters:—

Public Health	Pleasure Grounds
Sewerage	Town Planning and Plans
Housing	Civil Defence

REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OTHER BODIES

The Council is represented on the following committees or bodies which are also concerned to a greater or lesser degree with health:—

- Rural District Councils Association—two members.
- South-East Essex Health Area Sub-Committee—
three members.
- South-East Essex Tuberculosis Care Association—
one member.
- Essex Boroughs and District Councils Association—
two members.
- East Central Essex Area Planning Sub-Committee—
two members.
- South-East Essex Divisional Executive for Education—
three members.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

The following services are provided in the Rochford Rural District by the Essex County Council, which is the Local Health Authority:—

Child Welfare Centres

Rochford Health Services Clinic	Mondays p.m.
Great Wakering Health Services Clinic	Thursdays p.m.
Hockley—Public Hall	Tuesdays p.m.
Hullbridge Village Hall	1st and 3rd Wednesdays p.m.
Canewdon Village Hall	2nd Tuesdays p.m.
Foulness—The Social Hut	4th Tuesdays p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Rochford Health Services Clinic	Wednesdays p.m. and 2nd Friday p.m.
(For hospital booked cases)	(1st and 3rd Fridays p.m.)
Great Wakering Health Services Clinic	1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays a.m.

School and Immunisation Clinics

Rochford Health Services Clinic	Tuesdays a.m.
Great Wakering Health Services Clinic	Fridays a.m.
Hockley—Public Hall	2nd and 4th Wednesdays a.m.

At the Rochford and Great Wakering Health Services Clinics the Eye Specialist, Dentist and Speech Therapist see patients by appointment. ...

Home Nursing and Midwifery

The staff employed in the Rural District at the end of the year were:—

HOME NURSE MIDWIVES

Mrs. M. E. Hurrell, 80 Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

Mrs. E. Kirton, 15 Church End, Foulness.

Miss O. L. Moore, Nurses House, High Street, Great Wakering.

Mrs. J. M. Rose, 48 Broadlands Road, Hockley.

Mrs. M. C. Toal, 296 Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

MIDWIFE

Miss S. Pelikan, 4 Rochford Hall Close, Rochford.

HOME NURSES

Miss A. Norman, 2 Conistan Villas, Hullbridge.

Mr. D. Read, 19 Broadlands Avenue, Hockley.

Mrs. J. Cottrell, 296a Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

Health Visiting

The Health Visitors serving the District are based on the two Health Services Clinics of Rochford and Great Wakering, and, pending the building of a Health Services Clinic in Hockley, on 48 Broadlands Road, Hockley. The Health Visitor serving Hullbridge is based on Rayleigh Health Services Clinic.

Home Helps

The Home Help Service relies entirely on the employment of part-time Domestic Helps, whose services are provided, on medical recommendation, whenever necessary for the home care of the aged and infirm, the nursing mother, the sick and to help with the care of children when the family is under stress.

Other Local Health Authority Services

The Local Health Authority also arranges convalescence for patients not requiring medical or nursing care, loans sick room equipment for the home nursing of patients and provides additional nourishment and garden shelters, where required, for tuberculous patients.

The ambulance services in the County are centrally administered, as also are the County Council's Mental Health Services.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospitals available locally to residents of the District comprise the general hospitals in Southend and Rochford, the latter also providing maternity services, and Westcliff Hospital for

cases of infectious disease. Lancaster House, Southend, houses the Chest Clinic, serving this District and others.

The proximity of the Metropolitan area allows many patients from this area comparatively easy access to the specialist hospitals there.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological examinations of water supplies, milk, ice cream and other foodstuffs, as well as of other specimens, are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Westcliff.

Use is also made of the facilities of the Counties Public Health Laboratories when required for the complete, i.e. chemical and bacteriological analysis of water samples.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No formal action was called for under Section 47 of this Act during the year. In several cases of aged and infirm persons usually living alone, who had applied for admission either to hospital or hostel, the waiting period before they could be admitted was a lengthy one. The care of these persons in their own homes at such times strained the resources of the domiciliary services to their limit. Fortunately, the ranks of the workers in this field contain some as devoted as any employed in the Health Service, but even so they were sorely tried in some cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

As will be seen from the table on page 10, the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases, other than measles, was low during the year. The prevalence of measles did not extend to Great Wakering and the adjacent parishes.

Although not recorded in the table, the District suffered, as did most of the County, from the epidemic of Asian Influenza in the autumn. In general the cases were mild.

Tuberculosis

There were seven new cases notified for the first time during the year among the residents of the District. This is the lowest number so far recorded. The number of patients already notified as suffering from the disease, coming to live in the District, con-

tinued to outnumber newly-notified cases. The additions to the Tuberculosis Register in 1957 were as follows:—

Age	New Notifications				Transfers into the District			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
20—25 ...	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
25—35 ...	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
35—45 ...	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	1
55—65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	2	1	—	8	3	—	1

The names of sixteen persons were removed from the Tuberculosis Register in 1957. Seven of these had recovered from the disease, and six others in whom the disease still remained either active or quiescent, had gone to live in other districts. The other three cases died. Two of these three deaths were of males over the age of 70 years, who had each been notified a few years previously as suffering from the respiratory form of the disease. In one, tuberculosis was not the principal cause of death. The third death was that of a female suffering from respiratory tuberculosis. Here again the principal cause of death was not tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 123 names on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 120 at 1st January, 1957.

These cases were classified as follows:—

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1st January, 1957	63	41	5	11
31st December, 1957	66	42	4	11

Notifiable Disease	AGE GROUPS												
	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 or over
Measles	269	5	23	22	42	27	145	2	—	3	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	57	11	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	35	3	3	3	6	6	13	—	—	—	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	7	—	—	1	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	397	8	26	26	49	33	163	4	12	62	12	1	1

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

Further progress was made by the Council with their programme for dealing with unfit houses. Demolition orders were made on twenty-eight houses and Closing Orders on a further three. Fifteen houses were demolished during the year while twenty-six were repaired. In all cases, repair was achieved by informal action and no recourse to formal action was necessary.

The rate at which the demolition of unfit houses has proceeded has largely been determined by the availability of alternative housing. This fortunately has been more easily obtainable of late.

New House Building

The rapid rate of new building in the District increased even over previous years during 1957, when the Council completed 130 new houses, while 425 were finished for private owners. At the end of the year, there were under construction 60 houses for the Council and 331 for private developers.

A proportion of the house building undertaken by the Council continued to be bungalows mainly intended for the elderly.

Council Owned Houses

At 31st December, 1957, the Council owned 1,062 dwellings.

Housing Improvements

In the course of the year 32 applications, involving altogether 54 dwellings were approved by the Council, for improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949. Improvements to 39 properties were completed in 1957 by a similar procedure.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Main Water Supplies

The statutory water undertakers in the District, the Southend Waterworks Company, examine samples of raw and treated water in their own laboratory, and supply copies of the results of these

analyses to the Council. Occasional samples are submitted by the Water Company and also by the Council, to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination. A copy of such a report from the Counties Public Health Laboratories on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of main water in supply, taken from the Company's mains in Great Wakering, and derived from their deep well there, was included in last year's report.

There was no instance of any contamination of the main water supply during the year. The waters in supply are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The table on page 13 shows, for each of the eleven parishes in the District, the number of houses therein and the estimated population served by the main water supplies at the end of 1957.

Shallow Well Supplies

Comparatively few houses are now unconnected to the water mains because they are situated beyond reasonable and economic reach. These are dependent on shallow wells or rain tanks for their water. By the end of the year there were still the following houses on the line of the existing water mains, relying on shallow wells for their supply:—

Great Wakering ...	4	Rochford ...	1
Barling Magna ...	10	Canewdon ...	1
Stambridge ...	6		

The majority of these are owner-occupied and the owners have been reluctant to connect to the main water supply, because of the expense involved and the lack of a main sewer. The dwindling number of houses in this category will soon further diminish as the present and prospective extensions to the main sewers proceed.

MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Houses and Population in each Parish on Main Supply, 31st December 1957

Parish	Acreage	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashingdon (including South Fambridge)	2,503	700	2,163	673	2,089	4 + 5*	12 + 15
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	2,747	351	1,084	332	1,026	3	9
Canewdon	6,845	246	760	245	757	6	18
Foulness†	7,235	110	340	110	340	—	—
Great Wakering	3,314	980	3,028	967	2,154	—	—
Hawkwell	1,408	1,301	4,020	1,297	4,008	1	3
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	3,631	2,248	6,946	2,238	6,915	13	40
Paglesham	1,687	110	340	99	306	6	18
Rochford	2,988	2,022	6,248	2,006	6,198	4	12
Stambridge	2,202	164	507	156	482	—	—
Sutton	1,520	68	210	67	207	1	3
	36,080	8,300	25,646	8,190	24,482	38 + 5*	115 + 15

*Council standpipe on roadside. Other standpipes are in curtilage of private properties.

†War Department Mains.

Note.—There are only 51 dwellings where a main supply is not available.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Hullbridge No. 1 sewerage scheme was completed early in the year, when connection to the Rayleigh U.D.C. system was accomplished. Other sewerage works carried out in 1957 were the laying of 1,000 yards of soil sewer as part of the Barling Magna sewerage scheme, and various shorter lengths to serve newly-developed housing estates.

With the construction of the new extensions to the main sewers and the subsequent connections thereto, the Council have made frequent use of Section 19 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby they have required owners, in making these connections to lay them so as to form part of the general sewerage scheme. The owners have been reimbursed, in accordance with this section of the Act, the additional expenses to which they have been put.

The number of individual new connections in each parish made to the main sewerage systems during 1957 were as follows:—

<i>Parish</i>		<i>Existing Dwellings</i>	<i>New Dwellings</i>
Ashingdon	...	3	33
Barling Magna	...	6	2
Great Wakering	...	1	8
Hawkwell	23	157
Hockley	67	168
Rochford	1	40
Stambridge	...	—	1

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

Once again, the Council considered the financial and other implications of introducing a weekly refuse collection and once again decided to reconsider this proposal in a year's time, because of the increased rate which would have been necessary.

There were at the end of the year 7,680 houses from which refuse was collected regularly, and a pail collection was made from 591 houses. Despite the Council adding the pail closet collection at Foulness to their own service on the 1st April, 1957, in place of the private contract previously in operation then, the total number of houses for which this service is provided continues to diminish as the network of main sewers expands.

The collection of salvage continued and realised £1,144 16s. 6d. In the main, this was derived from the sale of waste paper.

INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

The table below shows for the year 1957 the number and nature of the inspections made by the Council's officers, together with the number of informal notices served under the relevant enactments and as a result of those inspections. There was no necessity to serve any formal notices under any of these headings in the course of the year:—

Nature of Inspection	Inspections	Informal Notices Served
Camping Sites	16	—
Catering Establishments	7	—
Damage by Pests Act	80	1
Drainage and Cesspools	215	36
Factories Act, 1937	9	—
Food Premises	103	—
Hairdressers' Byelaws	1	—
House Refuse Removal and Dustbins	50	15
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	477	24
Houseboats	25	1
Ice Cream Vendors	14	—
Ice Cream Samples	17	—
Infectious Disease Enquiries ...	8	—
Miscellaneous	263	—
Movable Dwellings	19	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act ...	170	6
Pet Animals Act, 1951	2	—
Petroleum Acts	22	—
Rehousing Enquiries	47	—
Rent Act	5	—
Schools	14	—
Shops Act	28	—
Slaughterhouse Byelaws	1	1
Threshing Regulations	2	—
Water Courses	1	—
Water Samples	7	—
Water Supplies	13	—
Totals	1,616	85

Factories Act, 1937

In 1957, the District had 60 factories and other premises equipped with mechanical power and nine not so equipped. No contraventions of those provisions of the Act which are the Council's province were noted during the year.

There were 84 outworkers in the District in 1957. All were employees of factories outside the District.

Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution

The Council decided to take part in the scheme in Essex for the measurement of atmospheric pollution, and as from November, 1957, inaugurated a recording station, consisting of a deposit gauge and a lead peroxide instrument at Rochford Secondary School.

Meat

The table below details the post-mortem meat inspections carried out in 1957, and the consequent findings.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed	515	3	49	195	1237
Number inspected	515	3	49	195	1237
<i>All diseases except Tubercu- losis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	44	1	—	1	5
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cycticerci ...	8.54	33.3	—	1.54	.404
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	14	—	1	—	13
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuberculosis	2.71	—	4.08	—	1.13
<i>Cysticerci:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	7	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

The carcasses affected by cysticerci were those of animals brought into the District for slaughter. They came from various parts of the country. No horses were slaughtered for human consumption in the District.

The five existing slaughterhouses continued to be in use regularly throughout the year. In the twelve months, 419 visits had to be paid to slaughterhouses. Under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 15 licences were granted to slaughtermen during 1957.

Milk

Only special designated milks may now be sold in this District. Four distributors of milk operate from two sets of premises. Each distributor purchases bottled milk from premises licensed in other areas. There are also 26 dealers licensed to sell sterilised milk from their premises, which are mainly general stores. Another 14 milk dealers are licensed for the sale of pasteurised milk and a further 6 for tuberculin tested milk. Two supplementary licences are held by distributors with dairies elsewhere, to retail milk inside the District.

Food Premises, etc.

At 31st December, 1957, the following premises in the District were engaged in handling food of one kind or another:—

Catering premises	...	24	Licensed premises	...	32
General Stores	...	79	Confectionery	...	21
Poultry Dressing Station	..	1	Butchers	...	15
Greengrocers	...	11	Fishmongers	...	6
Bakehouses	...	6	Pickle Factory	...	1

Under the Essex County Council Act of 1952, seven hawkers of food were registered in this period.

Ice Cream

As the Essex County Council Act 1933 is operative in the District, the registration of certain food premises under Section 16

of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 does not apply. Under the former Act, only manufacturers and vendors of ice cream are registrable. In 1957 there were no manufacturers, but 78 vendors from premises and 8 vendors from vehicles were registered.

Of 20 samples of ice cream taken in 1957, 10 were in Grade I, 2 in Grade II, 1 in Grade III and 7 in Grade IV on the Methylene Blue Test. All but one of the Grade IV samples came from one itinerant vendor, whose troubles appeared to lie in the deficiency of his storage accommodation. A warning that continued registration might be in jeopardy proved salutary and later samples were satisfactory.

Food Hygiene

The subject of education in food hygiene directed to the food handlers in the District, continued to be approached on an individual rather than a collective basis, as being the more rewarding method. The taking of swabs for bacteriological examination from crockery and utensils in catering establishments has continued to provide a useful check on the efficiency of the washing-up procedures, as well as a stimulus to better kitchen hygiene.

Disposal of Condemned Food

The condemned food surrendered for disposal during the year was comprised as follows:—

Meat	7 tins	Soup	2 tins
Fish	3 tins	Milk	16 tins
Fish (not tinned) ...	42 lbs.	Vegetables	26 tins
Fruit	36 tins	Bacon & Ham, 4 cwts.	12½ lbs.

The practice of colouring condemned fresh meat with an approved indelible dye was continued. The meat so treated was then collected from the slaughterhouses for industrial purposes by a contractor.

